

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177418

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, CB

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL PROBLEMS IN THE GKR UN MISSION

REFS: A. USUN 2779; B. PHNOM PENH 10717

1. YOU NO DOUBT ARE AWARE THAT OFFICE POLITICS ARE THE BANE OF THE CAMBODIAN FOREIGN SERVICE. THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF INTERNICINE WARFARE AND CHARACTER ASSASSINATIONS AND SIMILAR EMBROGLIOS HAVE SURFACED IN KHMER MISSIONS IN BERLIN, LONDON, PARIS, HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE SINCE 1970. WE, THEREFORE, SHARE USUN'S RELUCTANCE TO BE PLACED IN POSITION OF PASSING PERSONNEL MESSAGES TO CHHUT CHHOEUR. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR CHHUT AT A TIME WHEN HE NEEDS ALL THE SELF-CONFIDENCE THAT HE CAN MUSTER. WHILE WE CANNOT ARGUE THE MERITS OF HIS CASE AGAINST MADAME PENG OR HAV BUN HENG, IT IS CLEAR FROM ALL THE REPORTING THAT THE KHMER MFA ESTABLISHMENT, BEGINNING WITH NGUON CHHAY KRY, RESENT THE APPOINTMENTS OF UM SIM AND CHHUT CHHOEUR AND LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO BE OBSTRUCTIONIST AND VINDICTIVE. CHHUT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, RE-
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QUESTED THE ASSIGNMENT OF SEVERAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING, US-EDU-

CATED MFA OFFICERS FROM PHNOM PENH AND HONG KONG WITH NO APPARENT REACTION. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE MINISTRY COULD ACT ON THIS RATHER THAN CARRY ON A VENDETTA WITH THE TWO MOST EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES AVAILABLE TO THE GKR AT THIS MOST CRITICAL JUNCTURE.

2. AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, MADAME PENG IS PLANNING TO DEPART FOR CARACAS SHORTLY AND THAT SHOULD PROVIDE A COOLING OFF PERIOD. COUNSELOR HAV APPARENTLY REMAINS ON THE JOB AND USUN WILL NO DOUBT LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO SUBORDINATE HIS FEELINGS FOR THE GREATER CAUSE. WE SHALL BE SEEING CHHUT CHHOEUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WILL SEEK INFORMALLY TO MAKE THE POINTS TO HIM THAT HE SHOULD BEND SOMEWHAT AND GET HIS UNHAPPY STAFF BACK ON BOARD. KISSINGER

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